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# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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## RING-BILLED GULLS IN JUVENAL PLUMAGE IN JANUARY

EIRIK A. T. BLOM

Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) typically molt from juvenal to first-basic plumage in August and September (Cramp, Dwight). Like most gulls the transition from juvenal to first-basic involves the replacement of head and body feathers, with juvenal wing and tail feathers retained; in addition there are changes in soft part colors (Dwight).

On January 7, 1984 while observing gulls at Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River I was struck by a small, dark gull with plumage characters similar to that of the North American race of Mew Gull (*L. canus brachyrhynchus*). For the next half-hour the bird was watched sitting and flying at distances ranging from 30 to 200 meters. On close inspection the bird was clearly a Ring-billed Gull.

Unlike all other Ring-bills seen closely that day (about half of the 12,000 present) this individual lacked the pale gray back and scapulars and mostly white underparts of normal first-basic birds. The underparts were white, heavily barred and washed with blackish brown from the breast to the undertail coverts. The bars were sufficiently concentrated so that the bird appeared completely dark below at a distance or in flight. The feathers of the back and scapulars were dark brown with prominent buff fringes. The head was heavily spotted with blackish brown on the crown, nape, and face. The chin and throat were mostly white with some dark spotting. The bill was black for most of its length with the basal 25% grayish pink, showing a slight contrast. All of these plumage characters are consistent with juvenal plumage (Dwight), though on very young birds the bill is entirely black and acquires the characteristic pattern gradually through the late summer and early fall.

Additionally the bird lacked the normal tail pattern of first-basic Ring-bills, which is a white tail with a dark sub-terminal band and white uppertail coverts with light barring. This individual had a dark subterminal band that covered almost the entire tail, and the upper tail coverts were very heavily barred. In flight the bird showed no contrast between tail, rump, and back. The undertail coverts were also heavily barred, unlike most first-basic birds which are lightly barred.

The bird appeared, sitting and in flight, slightly smaller than the average for Ring-bills present, but well within the range of many birds. It flew well, foraged actively, and did not seem injured or restricted in any way.

One year later, February 5, 1985 I was again observing gulls at Conowingo. Though as many as 20,000 gulls were present, no more than 10% were Ring-bills. Sitting on the rocks approximately 50 meters from where I was watching was a Ring-bill apparently in mid-molt from juvenal to first-basic. The bill and upperparts were identical to the individual seen the previous year, but the underparts were typical of a bird in first-basic. They were entirely white with scattered, scallop-shaped blackish brown spots on the breast and sides. The tail and rump were also typical of a first-basic bird. The bill was similar to the bird of a year before, though the base of the bill was more greenish gray. This individual was quite small, appearing 15-20% smaller than most other Ring-bills. Additionally the bill was noticeably thinner, though not obviously shorter than most other birds.

Juvenile Ring-bills begin arriving in Maryland in early August, and evidence of retained juvenal plumage is rarely seen after October (personal observation, Hal Wierenga, *pers. comm.*). Though large, white-headed gulls like Herring (*L. argentatus*) and Great Black-backed (*L. marinus*) Gulls often show considerable variation in the timing and sequence of molts, and many individuals show characters associated with several plumages, such variation is less well documented in smaller gulls like Ring-bill. Though there is very little if anything in the literature to suggest substantial retardation in plumage sequences of Ring-bills, the experience at Conowingo makes it clear that such variation occurs. Such atypical individuals present substantial problems in field identification, and should be approached with great caution.

I am grateful for the presence and valuable assistance of Bob Schutsky on both occasions.

1618 Somerville Rd., Bel Air, MD 21014

## AVOCETS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

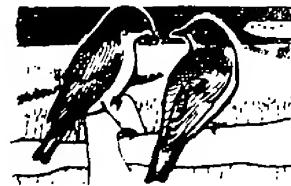
JAMES O. STEVENSON

On August 7, 1985, Brent Loban and I visited Greenbrier State Park, located along South Mountain in Washington County, Maryland.

For over an hour at midday, we watched three American Avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*) flying in close formation back and forth over the surface of the Park's artificial lake. They neither alighted on the water or lake shore. While the birds were probably distracted by the many bathers on the lake's eastern shore and five boats with fishermen, there were plenty of undisturbed areas where they could have rested. All three birds were adults with buffy heads and necks.

According to Chandler S. Robbins, co-author of Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia (*North American Fauna* No. 62, 1958), this is the second avocet record for western Maryland and the first for Washington County.

5600 Roosevelt St., W. Bethesda, MD.



## THE SEASON

### SPRING MIGRATION, March 1 - May 31, 1985

ROBERT F. RINGLER

The spring season was marked by above-average temperatures for all three months. Rainfall was below average in March and more so in April. Though slightly above normal in May, the precipitation that month was insufficient to refill the reservoirs, which had been depleted by the earlier rain deficiency, producing good shore-birding at inland localities. Otherwise, most observers commented on the lack of frontal systems to concentrate numbers of small migrants and thus the landbirding seemed rather dull. The mild early part of the season produced a flurry of exceptionally early arrivals, but left little in the way of notably late birds.

#### OBSERVERS:

**Garrett**—Connie Skipper, Sallie Thayer (all banding records at Mt. Nebo).

**Allegany**—Teresa Simons.

**Washington**—Alice Mallonee, Sam Shoemaker.

**Baltimore**—Peggy Bohanan, Steve Simon, Glenn Therres.

**Harford**—Dennis Kirkwood, Bob Schutsky.

**Howard**—Brenda & John Bell, Mike Bjorkman, Jon E. & Jon K. Boone, Joe Byrnes, Martha Chestem, John Clegg, Chuck Dupree, Frances Ehlers, Jane Farrell, Sandra Goolsby, Linda & Steve Harsy, Dave Harvey, David Holmes, Alice & Terry Kretz, V. Krishnamoorthy, Mike Leumas, Chris Ludwig, Grazina & Mike McClure, Rosamond Munro, Jim Orgain, David Pardoe, Jan Randle, Nan Rhinelander, Jo Solem (county compiler), Chuck & Linda Stirrat, Mark Wallace, Cathy Williamson, Paul Zucker.

**Montgomery**—Larry Bonham, Margaret Donnald (all banding records at Adventure Sanctuary), Michael & Paul O'Brien, Robert W. Warfield.

**District of Columbia**—Dave Czaplak.

**Prince Georges**—John Gregoire.

**Anne Arundel**—Alex & Helene Hammer, Wayne Klockner, Dotty Mumford, Hal Wierenga.

**Charles**—Paul Nistico.

**Calvert**—Walter Kraus.

**St. Marys**—Ron Runkles, Erika Wilson.

**Kent**—Jim & Patricia Gruber, Floyd Parks.

**Queen Anne's**—Carol & Lee McCullough.

**Caroline**—C. Adams, Ethel Engle, Jerry & Roberta Fletcher (county compilers), Inez Glime, Marvin Hewitt, Alicia Knotts, Mariana Nuttle, Wilbur Rittenhouse, W. Scudder, L.T. Short, Steve Westre.

**Talbot**—Les Coble.

**Lower Eastern Shore**—George Armistead, Henry Armistead, Sam Dyke, Heather Nicklas, Carl Perry, Paul Spitzer.

*Loon, Grebes, Pelagics, Cormorants.* Early and late Common Loons were seen on the Potomac River off Fort Hunt on March 29 (Dave Abbott) and May 29 (Jack Abbott). Other early migrants were 10 off Swan Point in Kent County on March 28, increasing to 32 on April 14 (Gruber), and 1 at Rocky Gap on March 30, increasing to 10 on April 3 (Simons). Gruber also reported the largest concentration of Common Loons, with 336 at Eastern Neck on April 15; other migrants included 52 flying over Black Marsh on April 20 and 9 at Piney Run on April 21 (both Ringler). The largest numbers of Pied-billed Grebes reported were rather small, with 5 at Pinto on March 30 (Simons) and 11 on Deep Creek Lake on April 12 (Skipper). Gruber saw about 100 Horned Grebes at Eastern Neck on March 20 and 27 there on April 15, whereas Armistead found about 130 in the Elliott Island area on March 31 and a late migrant at Bloodsworth Island on June 1. A May 11 pelagic trip out of Ocean City saw 16 Common Loons, 51 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 1 Leach's Storm-Petrel and 1 Northern Gannet (Naveen +). Bill Portlock reported seeing an immature gannet on March 4 east of Smith Island in the lower part of the bay. Jim Gruber saw the first Double-crested Cormorant of the season at Rock Hall on March 8, and 78 there on April 10 and 134 on May 10. He also saw 25 off Swan Point on March 29. There was an early concentration of 300 at Point Lookout on March 25 (Wilson); other interesting observations included 142 near Fort Armistead on April 13 (Blom), 4 flying north over Pennyfield on April 28 (M. O'Brien), 60 at Brandon Shores on May 4 (Ringler, Jeff Bickart), 6 at Seneca on May 6 (Warfield), 101 at Barren Island on May 26 (G. Armistead, Spitzer +) and 9 in DC on May 28 (Czaplak).

*Herons, Ibis, American Bitterns*. American Bitterns were more widely reported than in any recent spring, with single birds seen at Masonville on April 5 and 7, Black Marsh on April 13 (both Ringler), Sparrows Point on April 13 (Blom, Ringler), Lander on April 15 (Warfield), near Madonna on April 21 (Kirkwood), 4 at Pinto Marsh in Allegany County on April 21 (Simons), 2 at Lilypons on May 4 (M. O'Brien) and 1 at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on May 11 (Bob Caswell +). The first Least Bittern of the season was heard at Hughes Hollow near Seneca on April 28 (M. O'Brien), and Gregoire found 4 in the Patuxent River marshes of Prince Georges County on May 26. While 7 Great Blue Herons at Pinto Marsh on April 1 (Simons) were notable, on the same day Schutsky had his high count of 200 at Conowingo. He also found 4 Great Blue nests nearby on Octoraro Creek. Great Egrets made an unusually strong appearance in late March and early April, beginning with 1 at Elliott on March 20 (Wilson), followed by 1 in Baltimore on March 26 (Bohanan), 5 at Tanyard on March 29 (Engle), 1 at Pinto Marsh the same day and 2 there on the 30th, and 1 remaining through April 11 (Simons), 1 at the Opel Farm in Garrett County between Accident and Bittinger on March 30 (Skipper), 39 in southern Dorchester County on March 31 (Armistead), 1 at Cuckold Point in Baltimore County on April 5 (Blom +), 4 at Oakland on April 11 (Skipper), and 3 at Brandon Shores on May 5 (Ringler, Hammer). Armistead noted the first 11 Snowy Egrets in southern Dorchester County on March 31; inland birds were 1 at Hughes Hollow on May 12 (Bob Hilton), 2 at Wilde Lake in Columbia on May 17 (Chestem), and 1 in DC on May 19 (Czaplak). The only Little Blue Herons of note were 2 at Fishing Creek Marsh near Chesapeake Beach on April 21 (Kraus). Unusual on the western shore were single Tricolored Herons at Black Marsh on April 20 (Ringler) and North Beach on the next day (Kraus); 3 early individuals were at Smith Island on March 5 (Bill Portlock). The first Cattle Egret of the season was at Eastern Neck on April 2 (Gruber) and others were 14 at Black Marsh and 4 at Back River on April 20 (Ringler), 7 in DC on May 4 (Czaplak), 1 in Howard County the same day (Clegg).

Harvey), 25 flying north over Rockville on May 22 (M. O'Brien), and 5 at Tanyard on May 23 (Engle). Early Green-backed Herons were in Baltimore on April 2 (Bohanan) and at Piscataway on April 13 (Nistico). Czaplak counted 32 adult Black-crowned Night-Herons with 14 nests in DC on April 7. A single Black-crown was a rarity in Columbia at Lake Elkhorn on May 3 (Ludwig). Glossy Ibis on the western shore were 1 at Black Marsh on April 20 (Ringler) and 2 at Brandon Shores on April 28 and May 27 (Hammer).

**Swans, Geese.** Tundra Swans received very little comment this spring, but Warfield noted 76 flying over Seneca in three flocks on March 11, and there were 11 at Rocky Gap on April 3 (Simons). Rare for Baltimore were 2 subadult Mute Swans that lingered at Masonville from March 24 to April 20 (Ringler). More expected were the 85 Mutes at Swan Point on March 29 (Gruber) and the adult on a nest at Denton on May 4 (Adams). Greater White-fronted Geese got above average notice this year with the Harford County bird remaining into early April (Kirkwood), 6 at Jug Bay on March 16 (Herbert Boehm), an immature at Lake Needwood on April 8-12 (Tom Valegal) and 1 in Howard County on March 19 (Chestem) and April 1 (Wallace). The last Snow Geese reported were 25 at Sudlersville on April 30 (McCulloughs), 20 at Greensboro on May 4 (Hewitt) and an immature at Blackwater on the latter date (Armistead +). The major flight of Canada Geese occurred on March 10 when they were widely reported. A small Canada Goose of the race *hutchinsi* was also at Blackwater on May 4 (Armistead +), only the second spring report of this subspecies for the state. Nesting Canadas produced downy young at Piney Run by May 5 (Ringler) and in DC where Czaplak counted 40 on May 19, including 5 broods. The Harford County Barnacle Goose remained to May 24, apparently unsuccessfully courting one of the farm geese long after the flock of Canadas with which it had been traveling had left.

**Puddle Ducks.** A pair of Wood Ducks at the Mountain Lake sewage lagoons on March 9 (Skipper) was early for Garrett County; the only flock reported elsewhere was 14 at Sycamore Landing in Montgomery County on March 24 (M. O'Brien). There were 50 Green-winged Teal at Jug Bay on March 2 (Ringler) and 168 Black Ducks at Piney Run on March 16 (M. O'Brien). March 10 was an early date for 2 Blue-winged Teal at Masonville (Ringler). In western Maryland high counts of Blue-wings were noted on April 13, with 130 in Garrett County, 122 at the sewage lagoons and 8 at Broadford Reservoir (Skipper), and 30 at Pinto Marsh (Simons). A late Blue-wing was at Piney Run on May 11 (Ringler). On March 31 there were 4 Northern Shovelers at North Branch (Simons) and 34 at Remington Farms (Gruber); on April 5 there were 13 at Hart-Miller Island (Ringler +), and a late migrant was at Piney Run on April 21 (Ringler). Wilson counted 57 Gadwalls in Dorchester County on March 20. American Wigeon numbered 28 in Allegany County on March 29 (4 at Pinto Marsh, 4 at North Branch and 20 at Rocky Gap—Simons), 62 in Howard County on April 2 (Wallace), and 2 very late birds in DC on May 19 (Czaplak). A highlight of the season was the drake Eurasian Wigeon that Alex Hammer spotted at Piney Run on March 10 and that was seen by dozens of birders through April 2.

**Diving Ducks.** There were 40 Canvasbacks at DC on March 16 (Czaplak), 1000 in the Fishing Bay/Elliott Island area on March 20 (Wilson), and 6 late migrants at Rocky Gap on April 9 (Simons). There were 7 Redheads at Piney Run on March 13 (Ringler) and a late one in DC on March 31 (Czaplak). Chestem found 70 Ring-

Table 1. Spring Arrival Dates, 1985

Species	10-Yr Median		Species	10-Yr Median	
	1985 Median	1985 Median		1985 Median	1985 Median
Common Loon	4/6	3/30	Common Snipe	3/15	3/12
Pied-billed Grebe	3/12	3/19	American Woodcock	3/1	2/27
Horned Grebe	3/20	3/20	Laughing Gull	4/4	3/31
Double-crested Cormorant	4/6	3/25	Bonaparte's Gull	3/30	3/30
American Bittern	4/13	4/10	Ring-billed Gull	2/28	2/17
Great Blue Heron	3/16	3/24	Caspian Tern	4/16	4/5
Great Egret	4/9	3/29	Forster's Tern	4/24	4/26
Snowy Egret	4/12	4/14	Least Tern	5/3	5/4
Cattle Egret	4/10	4/13	Black-billed Cuckoo	5/10	5/4
Green-backed Heron	4/17	4/16	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5/4	5/4
Glossy Ibis	4/10	4/20	Common Nighthawk	5/7	5/4
Tundra Swan	3/3	3/2	Whip-poor-will	4/22	4/23
Snow Goose	-	2/18	Chimney Swift	4/16	4/17
Canada Goose	2/26	2/19	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4/30	4/27
Wood Duck	3/6	3/8	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3/26	3/31
Green-winged Teal	3/19	3/20	Eastern Wood-Pewee	5/4	5/4
Northern Pintail	3/4	2/26	Acadian Flycatcher	5/3	5/1
Blue-winged Teal	3/21	3/28	Willow Flycatcher	5/19	5/12
Northern Shoveler	3/16	3/15	Least Flycatcher	5/4	5/4
Gadwall	3/11	3/17	Eastern Phoebe	3/17	3/13
American Wigeon	3/6	3/7	Great Crested Flycatcher	5/1	4/28
Canvasback	3/6	2/17	Eastern Kingbird	4/24	4/24
Redhead	3/6	2/17	Purple Martin	3/30	3/31
Ring-necked Duck	3/6	2/25	Tree Swallow	3/27	3/21
Lesser Scaup	3/7	3/5	N. Rough-winged Swallow	4/10	3/31
Oldsquaw	3/20	3/27	Bank Swallow	4/23	4/28
Common Goldeneye	2/26	2/12	Cliff Swallow	4/26	4/15
Bufflehead	3/7	3/7	Barn Swallow	4/5	3/31
Hooded Merganser	3/7	3/9	Brown Creeper	3/22	3/30
Common Merganser	3/4	2/17	House Wren	4/20	4/20
Red-breasted Merganser	3/17	3/21	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3/25	3/28
Ruddy Duck	3/19	3/16	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4/9	4/13
Osprey	3/25	3/16	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4/11	4/7
Northern Harrier	3/8	3/2	Eastern Bluebird	2/23	2/17
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/14	3/9	Veery	5/1	4/29
Cooper's Hawk	-	3/13	Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/12	5/11
Broad-winged Hawk	4/16	4/16	Swainson's Thrush	5/3	5/4
Sora	4/26	4/15	Hermit Thrush	4/11	4/12
American Coot	3/16	3/18	Wood Thrush	4/24	4/22
Semipalmated Plover	5/5	5/4	American Robin	2/22	2/21
Killdeer	2/27	2/23	Gray Catbird	4/24	4/28
Greater Yellowlegs	3/27	3/30	Brown Thrasher	4/10	4/7
Lesser Yellowlegs	4/11	4/5	Water Pipit	3/15	3/24
Solitary Sandpiper	4/21	4/19	Cedar Waxwing	2/27	2/18
Spotted Sandpiper	4/23	4/21	Loggerhead Shrike	3/24	3/17
Upland Sandpiper	4/25	4/27	White-eyed Vireo	4/20	4/19
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5/3	5/4	Solitary Vireo	4/22	4/23
Least Sandpiper	4/25	4/23	Yellow-throated Vireo	4/30	4/27
Pectoral Sandpiper	4/3	3/31	Warbling Vireo	4/30	4/25
Dunlin	4/19	4/15	Red-eyed Vireo	4/27	4/26
			Blue-winged Warbler	4/30	4/27

Table 1 (cont.) Spring Arrival Dates, 1985

Species	10-Yr Median	1985 Median	Species	10-Yr Median	1985 Median
Golden-winged Warbler	5/3	4/27	Mourning Warbler	5/19	5/17
Tennessee Warbler	5/3	5/4	Common Yellowthroat	4/20	4/21
Nashville Warbler	5/2	4/27	Hooded Warbler	4/29	4/27
Northern Parula	4/20	4/20	Wilson's Warbler	5/7	5/4
Yellow Warbler	4/25	4/26	Canada Warbler	5/7	5/4
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/3	4/28	Yellow-breasted Chat	5/2	4/28
Magnolia Warbler	5/3	5/4	Summer Tanager	5/2	4/27
Cape May Warbler	5/3	5/4	Scarlet Tanager	4/29	4/27
Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/3	4/27	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/3	5/1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4/13	4/6	Blue Grosbeak	5/1	4/27
Black-throated Green Warbler	5/1	4/27	Indigo Bunting	5/1	4/27
Blackburnian Warbler	5/4	5/4	Rufous-sided Towhee	3/24	4/6
Yellow-throated Warbler	4/17	4/13	Bobolink	5/2	5/3
Pine Warbler	3/18	3/16	Red-winged Blackbird	2/21	2/20
Prairie Warbler	4/24	4/20	Rusty Blackbird	3/15	3/4
Palm Warbler	4/14	4/3	Common Grackle	2/20	2/17
Bay-breasted Warbler	5/7	5/4	Brown-headed Cowbird	2/28	2/15
Blackpoll Warbler	5/5	5/4	Orchard Oriole	4/30	4/27
Cerulean Warbler	5/2	4/28	Northern Oriole	4/29	4/27
Black-&-white Warbler	4/20	4/17	Chipping Sparrow	4/4	3/29
American Redstart	4/28	4/22	Vesper Sparrow	4/7	4/1
Prothonotary Warbler	4/22	4/27	Savannah Sparrow	3/29	3/29
Worm-eating Warbler	4/30	4/27	Grasshopper Sparrow	5/1	4/25
Ovenbird	4/22	4/19	Fox Sparrow	2/27	3/7
Northern Waterthrush	4/29	4/27	Lincoln's Sparrow	5/10	5/4
Louisiana Waterthrush	4/8	4/6	Swamp Sparrow	4/10	3/29
Kentucky Warbler	5/1	4/28			

necked Ducks at Highland Lake in Howard County on March 8, and on the following day 500 were estimated at Piney Run (Ringler). Gruber's estimates of Greater Scaup off Swan Point in March were 10,000 on the 1st, 15,000 on the 11th and 4000 on the 27th. Other Greaters were 200 in Hawk Cove, Baltimore Co., on March 17 (Ringler) and 5 in DC on March 31 (Czaplak). Gruber's estimates of Lesser Scaup were 7000 on the Chester River on March 12, 12,000 there on March 20, and 1000 on Worton Creek on April 4. Other counts of Lessers were 250 in DC on March 13 (Czaplak), 9500 at Masonville on March 17 (Ringler), 33 in Howard County on March 26 (Wallace), 151 in St. Marys County on March 27 (Wilson), 39 in Allegany County on March 29 including 34 at Rocky Gap and 5 at North Branch (Simons), and 400 in the Potomac River off Mount Vernon on April 1 (Dave Abbott). Interesting reports of Oldsquaw were 1 in DC on March 26 (Czaplak), 80 in St. Marys County on March 27 (Wilson), 12 at Rocky Gap on March 29 (Simons), and an immature male that remained at Piney Run from April 6 through May 5 (Ringler). Kirkwood reported the only Black Scoters, 3 at Eastern Neck on April 27, and Wilson the only Surf Scoters, 6 at Point Lookout on March 27. White-winged Scoters were represented on March 27 by 1 in DC (Czaplak) and 1 at Point Lookout (Wilson), 4 at Rocky Gap on March 30 and 1 there on April 3 (Simons), and 5 at Eastern Neck on April 15 (Gruber). A late Common Goldeneye was at Centennial Lake in Columbia on May 4 along with a Red-breasted Merganser (Leumas). High counts of Buffleheads were 64 in St. Marys County on March 27 (Wilson), 90 in Curtis Bay on April 7 (Ringler) and 15 in DC on April 25 (Czaplak); a late migrant

was at Piney Run on May 9 (Ringler). Wilson found 13 Hooded Mergansers at Lilypons on March 24. Notable Common Mergansers were 9 at Jug Bay on March 2 and 7 at Piney Run on March 9 (both Ringler), 26 on Loch Raven on March 14 (Simon), and single late birds at Piscataway on April 19 (Nistico) and Blockhouse Point on the Potomac on April 28 (M. O'Brien). Other Red-breasted Mergansers were 8 in Allegany County (4 at North Branch and 4 at Rocky Gap on March 29—Simons), 15 in DC on March 31 (Czaplak), 45 at Hart-Miller on April 5 (Ringler +), 6 at Assateague on May 20 (M. O'Brien) and 1 at Ocean City on May 25 (Ringler). About 3000 Ruddy Ducks remained on Back River from March 3 through April 13 (Ringler) while about 6000 were on Worton Creek on April 4 (Gruber). There were 15 Ruddies at Rocky Gap on April 11 (Simons), and possible summering birds were 3 at Hurlock on May 26 (Ringler) and 1 at Lake Elkhorn on May 30 (D. Hegren).

*Hawks, Falcons.* The spring hawk watches at Monument Knob and Fort Smallwood are summarized in Tables 3 and 4. Single early Ospreys were seen at Rock Hall on March 8 (Gruber) and Sandy Point on March 10 (Klockner), and 2 were at Susquehanna State Park on March 16 (Kirkwood). In Baltimore County a pair of Ospreys were nest-building on a channel marker off Baylight Beach on March 17 (Ringler). In Carroll County single Ospreys were at Westminster on April 14 and Liberty Reservoir on May 12 (Ringler). Single immature Bald Eagles were flying past Black Marsh on April 20 (Ringler) and near Ellicott City on May 18 (Solem, Farrell). Kraus saw an adult at North Beach on April 26, and Kirkwood saw 4 at Eastern Neck the following day. A good hawk flight on April 20 produced 167 Sharp-shinned Hawks over Black Marsh (Ringler). An early Broad-winged Hawk was at Fort Smallwood on April 5 (Wierenga). Two Rough-legged Hawks at Elliott on March 20 (Wilson) were not unusual, but a very late individual passed Fort Smallwood on May 1 (Wierenga, Bill Murphy). Gruber reported an adult Golden Eagle at Remington Farms on March 6 and an immature there on March 31 and April 1, a very late date. Single Merlin were reported at DC on April 22 (Czaplak), Columbia on April 28 (Krishnamoorthy), and Piney Run on May 5 (Ringler). A Peregrine Falcon was seen in the Long Reach section of Columbia in early April (P. Mahaffey) and 1 was at Horn Point in Dorchester County on May 4 (Wilson).

*Pheasants, Rails, Limpkin.* A male Ring-necked Pheasant was seen and heard at Hollywood in St. Marys County on March 18 (fide Runkles), and 2 were at Easton on May 3 (Wilson). The first Black Rail of the season was heard at Elliott on April 27 (Armistead) and the high count there was 47 on May 20 (M. O'Brien). On May 4 a King Rail was at Tanyard, where the species has become rare (Engle). At Pinto Marsh, Simons found the first Virginia Rail this spring on April 24 and the first Sora on April 7. Another Sora was first noted at Hughes Hollow on April 24 (Bonham), and Gregoire found 1 at Patuxent River Park on May 25. Sam Dyke had the good fortune to see a Purple Gallinule at Deal Island WMA on May 19. A high western shore count of 18 Common Moorhens was at Brandon Shores on May 4 (Ringler, Bickart), and on May 12 an adult was at Lilypons, where breeding is a possibility (Bob Hilton). The high counts of American Coots were 100 on Deep Creek Lake on March 28 (Skipper) and 33 at Masonville on April 3 (Ringler). Late migrants were 1 at Piney Run on May 19 and 3 near Berlin on May 25 (Ringler). The second Maryland record of Limpkin was 1 in Howard County from May 28 through June 10; this bird will be reported more fully in a separate article.

*Shorebirds.* Unusual were 2 Black-bellied Plovers in DC on May 19 (Czaplak) and 2 at Hurlock on May 26 (Ringler). Interesting counts of Semipalmated Plovers were 12 at Fort McHenry and 13 at Liberty Reservoir, both on May 12 (Ringler), 10 at

Stemmers Run WMA in Cecil County on May 16 (Therres), and 80 at Barren Island on May 25 (Armistead). The first Black-necked Stilt was seen at Deal Island WMA on May 12 (Hammer, Wilkinson) and 2 were there on May 18 (Bonham). Simons found 2 Greater Yellowlegs at North Branch on March 31 and there were 30 at Back River on April 7 (Ringler). An early Solitary Sandpiper was at Piney Run on April 14 (Ringler), 11 were in southern Howard County on May 3 (Solem), and 30 at Liberty Reservoir on May 8, where there were 20 Spotted Sandpipers on May 10 (Ringler). The only reports of Upland Sandpipers were 1 at Rockville on April 26 (M. O'Brien), 1 at Elliott on May 3-4 (heard both times at night by J.C. Miller and Armistead +) and 2 near Clarksville on May 4-5 (Clegg, Harvey +). The only reports of Whimbrels were 46 at Deal Island WMA on May 20 (M. O'Brien) and 3 at Barren Island on May 26 (Armistead). A probable wintering Red Knot was at Ocean City March 2-3 (Klockner +); migrants reported were 2 at Ocean City on May 11 (Wilkinson) and 33 at Barren Island on May 26 (Armistead). Counts of Semi-palmated Sandpipers were 13 at Point Lookout on May 15 (Wilson), 100 at Stemmers Run WMA on May 16 (Therres), and 100 at Deal Island WMA on May 25 (Dyke). There were 2 early Least Sandpipers at Hart-Miller on April 5 (Ringler +) and 200 at Deal Island WMA on May 11 (Dyke). The only White-rumped Sandpipers reported were 9 at Liberty Reservoir on May 22 (Ringler) and 1 at Holland Island on June 1 (Armistead). The first Pectoral Sandpipers were 4 at North Branch on March 31 (Simons) and 16 at Hart-Miller on April 5 (Ringler +). The last of the Purple Sandpipers at Ocean City were 5 on May 20 (M. O'Brien). An early Dunlin was at Masonville on March 24 (Ringler); 16 were at Hart-Miller on April 5 (Ringler +), 4 at Remington Farms on April 15 (Gruber), 12 at Stemmers Run WMA on May 16 (Therres), and 500 at Deal Island WMA on May 25 (Dyke). Rare in spring were 3 Stilt Sandpipers at Blackwater on May 11 (Spitzer, Nicklas +). Therres also noted a Short-billed Dowitcher at Stemmers Run WMA on May 16, a rarity for Cecil County, whereas 200 at Deal Island WMA on May 25 (Dyke) were quite normal. High counts of Common Snipe were 81 at Liliypoms on March 16 (M. O'Brien), 30 in Carroll County at Liberty Reservoir on March 25 (Ringler), and 60 in southern Dorchester County on March 31 (Armistead). On the May 11 pelagic trip out of Ocean City 2 Red Phalaropes were seen (Wierenga +).

**Gulls.** Laughing Gulls moved in early, with 2 at Chestertown on March 6 (Parks) being the first observed; 145 in Dorchester County on March 31 (Armistead) was an impressive early spring number. Also on the latter date an adult was seen in fields in southern Frederick County with 1500 Ring-billed Gulls and 36 Herring Gulls (M. O'Brien). The only Common Black-headed Gull of the season was an adult at Fort Smallwood on April 13 (Hammer). Bonaparte's Gulls were more widely reported inland than ever before. This species seems to use Back River as its major staging area in spring. Numbers there peaked at 2100 on April 7 (Ringler). Directly across the bay at Tolchester, Gruber noted his first 2 migrants on March 16, increasing to 18 on the 29th and 33 on April 4. The first inland observation was by Teresa Simons in Allegany County, with 12 at Rocky Gap on March 29 and 5 there on April 11. She also observed 4 at Pinto on March 30, 1 there on April 9, and 1 at North Branch on April 18. In Garrett County Connie Skipper found 14 at the Mountain Lake sewage lagoons on March 30, 1 there on April 13, and 2 others that day at Broadford Reservoir. On March 31 Michael O'Brien saw 4 in southern Frederick County, and Erika Wilson observed 5 there two days later. There were 5 at Piney Run on April 6 (Ringler) and 29 at Lake Elkhorn on April 17 (Orgain). In DC, Czaplak's high count was 120 on April 9, and his last observation was of a very late bird on May 23. Rounding out the observations on the major rivers were 8 over the Potomac at Pennyfield on April 28 (M. O'Brien) and 14 over the

Table 2. Spring Departure Dates, 1985

Species	10 Yr Median	1985 Median	Species	10 Yr Median	1985 Median
Common Loon	5/11	5/29	Bonaparte's Gull	5/3	5/4
Pied-billed Grebe	5/4	5/4	Caspian Tern	5/24	6/16
Horned Grebe	5/4	4/20	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5/3	4/15
Couple-crested Cormorant	5/25	6/12	Brown Creeper	4/29	4/20
American Bittern	5/4	5/4	Winter Wren	4/27	4/13
Tundra Swan	4/11	3/27	Golden crowned Kinglet	4/12	4/8
Snow Goose	4/3	4/30	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5/6	5/8
Canada Goose	5/3	4/16	Veery	5/21	5/22
Green-winged Teal	4/29	4/27	Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/22	5/25
Northern Pintail	4/2	3/22	Swainson's Thrush	5/25	5/27
Blue-winged Teal	5/3	5/19	Hermit Thrush	5/5	5/9
Northern Shoveler	4/12	4/6	Water Pipit	5/4	5/4
Gadwall	5/1	4/6	Cedar Waxwing	5/27	5/28
American Wigeon	4/18	4/19	Solitary Vireo	5/6	5/7
Canvasback	4/10	4/1	Blue-winged Warbler	5/12	5/8
Redhead	3/28	3/15	Tennessee Warbler	5/22	5/19
Ring-necked Duck	4/16	4/7	Nashville Warbler	5/16	5/11
Greater Scaup	4/4	4/3	Chestnut-sided Warbler	5/18	5/19
Lesser Scaup	4/28	5/4	Magnolia Warbler	5/23	5/26
Ooldsquaw	4/11	4/13	Cape May Warbler	5/16	5/19
Surf Scoter	5/4	4/15	Black-throated Blue Warbler	5/16	5/19
White-winged Scoter	4/24	4/15	Yellow-rumped Warbler	5/15	5/13
Common Goldeneye	4/12	4/5	Black-throated Green Warbler	5/17	5/22
Bufflehead	5/2	4/28	Blackburnian Warbler	5/19	5/26
Hooded Merganser	4/18	4/7	Palm Warbler	5/3	5/4
Common Merganser	4/9	4/6	Bay-breasted Warbler	5/24	5/22
Red-breasted Merganser	5/5	5/4	Blackpoll Warbler	5/29	5/29
Ruddy Duck	5/5	5/5	American Redstart	5/29	5/31
Northern Harrier	4/3	3/20	Northern Waterthrush	5/23	5/31
Rough-legged Hawk	5/6	5/4	Mourning Warbler	5/30	5/28
American Coot	5/3	4/22	Wilson's Warbler	5/20	5/20
Black-bellied Plover	5/25	6/6	Canada Warbler	5/26	5/27
Semipalmated Plover	5/27	6/1	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5/20	5/19
Greater Yellowlegs	5/11	5/12	American Tree Sparrow	3/20	3/28
Lesser Yellowlegs	5/9	5/12	Savannah Sparrow	5/8	5/5
Solitary Sandpiper	5/14	5/19	Fox Sparrow	4/8	3/27
Spotted Sandpiper	5/25	5/28	Lincoln's Sparrow	5/23	5/19
Ruddy Turnstone	5/29	6/12	Swamp Sparrow	5/9	5/5
Sanderling	5/17	6/2	White-throated Sparrow	5/13	5/13
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5/31	6/2	White-crowned Sparrow	5/8	5/8
Least Sandpiper	5/17	5/19	Dark-eyed Junco	5/3	5/1
White-rumped Sandpiper	6/1	6/1	Bobolink	5/18	5/30
Pectoral Sandpiper	5/5	4/30	Rusty Blackbird	5/3	5/4
Dunlin	5/26	6/5	Purple Finch	5/7	5/4
Short-billed Dowitcher	5/24	6/9			
Common Snipe	5/3	5/4			

**Table 3 - Hawk Migration at Monument Knob, Washington Monument State Park,  
Spring 1985**

Data compiled by Sam Shoemaker from 184 observer hours contributed by many people.

Species	First	Last	Total	Big Days
Osprey	3/27	5/18	172	26 on 4/18, 21 on 4/13, 17 on 4/19
Bald Eagle	4/5	4/13	3	also 1 on 4/11
Northern Harrier	3/9	5/8	64	10 on 3/28, 8 on 4/5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/1	5/18	363	88 on 4/25, 30 on 4/5, 29 on 3/28
Cooper's Hawk	3/2	5/8	29	3 on 3/26 and 4/1
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/2	5/20	81	18 on 3/16, 10 on 3/10, 8 on 4/26
Broad-winged Hawk	4/5	5/18	570	246 on 4/18, 96 on 4/19, 52 on 4/20
Red-tailed Hawk	3/2	5/20	407	51 on 4/1, 33 on 4/2, 31 on 3/16
Golden Eagle	3/2	-	1	
American Kestrel	3/2	4/19	38	5 on 4/1, 3 on 4 days
Merlin	4/1	-	1	
Unidentified	-	--	146	
TOTAL	3/1	5/22	1875	298 on 4/18, 162 on 4/19, 128 on 4/25

**Table 4-Hawk Migration at Fort Smallwood Park, Spring 1985**

Data compiled by Hal Wierenga from 98.5 observer hours on 23 days by many people.

Species	First	Last	Total	Big Days
Black Vulture	3/16	5/1	37	13 on 3/28, 8 on 4/2, 6 on 4/5
Turkey Vulture	3/5	5/1	677	175 on 4/26, 76 on 3/27, 75 on 4/2
Osprey	3/27	5/1	174	30 on 4/25, 26 on 4/26, 23 on 5/1
Bald Eagle	3/27	4/19	4	2 on 4/19, 1 also on 4/13; all immatures
Northern Harrier	3/27	5/1	76	18 on 5/1, 15 on 4/26, 13 on 4/25
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/5	5/4	2699	836 on 4/26, 729 on 4/19, 486 on 4/20
Cooper's Hawk	3/16	5/1	146	34 on 4/26, 32 on 5/1, 25 on 4/20
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/5	4/12	26	6 on 3/5, 5 on 3/10
Broad-winged Hawk	4/5	5/4	671	331 on 4/26, 211 on 4/19, 51 on 5/1
Red-tailed Hawk	3/5	5/1	65	11 on 4/26, 9 on 5/1, 8 on 4/5
Rough-legged Hawk	5/1	-	1	
American Kestrel	3/5	5/1	222	66 on 4/2, 33 on 3/17, 22 on 4/6
Merlin	4/6	5/1	41	12 on 4/25, 8 on 4/19, 7 on 4/26
Peregrine Falcon	5/1	-	1	
Unidentified	-	-	11	
TOTAL	3/5	5/4	4851	

Susquehanna at Conowingo on May 6 (Schutsky). Other high inland counts of gulls at Piney Run were 600 Ring-billed Gulls on March 9 and 40 Herring Gulls on March 25 (Ringler), and 37 Ring-bills at Pinto on March 30 (Simons). The Lesser Black-backed Gull at Fort McHenry continued there through April 13 (Ringler). Others were singles at Chesapeake Beach, March 3-15 (Kraus), and at Hart-Miller on April 5 (Ringler +). An immature Glaucous Gull was seen sitting on a channel dredge pipeline about 2 miles north of Howell Point, Kent County on March 7 (Gruber). Armistead found 210 Great Black-backed Gulls on the lower Susquehanna River on March 25.

*Terns.* Michael O'Brien reported the only 2 Gull-billed Terns of the period, at Assateague on May 20. Caspian Terns moved in on schedule but numbers built up quickly. There were 2 at Masonville on April 3 (Ringler) and 3 in DC three days later (Czaplak), but 160 at Fort McHenry on April 13 (Ringler); 4 remained at Barren Island on May 26 (Armistead +). Wilson found 5 very early Royal Terns in St. Marys County on March 27 and Gruber saw 2 rather far north in the bay at Swan Point on April 15, both of these being banded birds. Gruber also saw an early Common Tern at Fairlee Creek on April 10 and Czaplak saw 2 flying up the Potomac on May 13, a rare record for DC. Warfield saw a Forster's Tern at Seneca on May 6. Owing to identification problems between Forster's and Common Terns the inland migration of these species in Maryland is poorly known. Gruber counted 22 Least Terns at Swan Creek on May 10, and the only Black Tern of the season was 1 at Barren Island on May 26 (Armistead, Spitzer +).

*Owls, Goatsuckers, Swift, Hummingbird.* John and Peg Barber banded 7 baby Common Barn-Owls in a nest at Edgemere in eastern Baltimore County on May 9, and Bill Portlock found an adult in a church belfry on Smith Island on March 5. A Great Horned Owl was in Druid Hill Park in the center of Baltimore on April 15 (Ringler). An early Common Nighthawk was in Denton on April 30 (Knotts). A rarity in the Piedmont was a Chuck-will's-widow heard calling near Sycamore Landing in Montgomery County on May 4-7 (M. O'Brien +). Early Whip-poor-wills were heard at Patuxent River Park on April 5 (Gregoire) and at Federalsburg on April 12 (Glime). The first Chimney Swift of the season was at Chestertown on April 14 (Gruber), and the first Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Denton on April 22 (Nuttle).

*Flycatchers.* The only Olive-sided Flycatcher this spring was at Pennyfield on May 18 (Fred Fallon). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at Adventure on May 20 and 2 were banded at Mt. Nebo on May 28; the only sight observation reported was 1 at Sunderland on May 25 (Kraus). The first Alder Flycatcher of the season was found singing at Mt. Nebo on May 25 (Skipper), and early Willow Flycatchers were singing in northern Baltimore County on May 4 (Bob Dixon) and at Piney Run on May 11 (Ringler). An early Least Flycatcher was banded at Mt. Nebo on May 2, 1 was seen in DC on May 19 (Czaplak), and another was heard at Merkle WMA on May 20 (M. O'Brien). Eastern Phoebes moved in early this year. In addition to the February sightings previously reported in the winter summary there were 3 in Charles County on March 2 (Ringler) and 3 at Queenstown on the same day (McCulloughs).

*Swallows.* Early Tree Swallows were at Aberdeen Proving Ground on March 9 (Kirkwood +), Patuxent River Park on March 17 (Gregoire), and 4 at North Branch on March 19 (Simons). Modest high counts were 55 in Howard County on April 10 (Wallace) and 200 in DC on April 11 (Czaplak). Early Northern Rough-winged Swallows were singles at Lilypons on March 19 (Bonham) and in Harford County on March 29 (Kirkwood). Gruber saw 3 extraordinarily early Bank Swallows at Rock Hall on March 30 and Czaplak counted 10 in DC on May 23 for his seasonal high there. A Cliff Swallow at Barren Island on May 25 (Armistead) was an unusual migrant there. Early Barn Swallows were 1 in DC on March 30 (Czaplak) and 5 at North Branch on the same day (Simons).

*Jays, Ravens, Wrens.* An estimation of a phenomenal 20,000 Blue Jays was seen flying over the hawk lookout at Fort Smallwood on April 26 (Wierenga, Bill Murphy). Simons saw 2 Northern Ravens at Pinto Marsh on April 14, probably

straying from the nearby cliffs overlooking the Potomac. The Grubers heard 2 Sedge Wrens at Eastern Neck on May 4, another was observed singing in the overgrown grassy area of the exposed lake bed at Liberty Reservoir in Carroll County on May 8 (Ringler), and 2 were at Elliott on May 11 (Armistead, Perry). An early migrant Marsh Wren was at Masonville on April 6 (Ringler).

*Muscicapids.* Gruber made high counts at Remington Farms of 32 Golden-crowned Kinglets on March 31 and 27 Ruby-crowned Kinglets on April 13, showing the approximate two-week difference in the peaks of these species' migrations. An early Veery was banded at Adventure on April 25 as were 2 Swainson's Thrushes on April 29. Czaplak found 6 Gray-cheeked Thrushes in DC on May 25 including 3 in full song. At Patuxent River Park on May 25 Gregoire banded a Swainson's Thrush that had a brood patch and an egg in the oviduct, obviously an over-anxious female that couldn't wait to get to the breeding grounds. A late Hermit Thrush was seen along the C&O Canal in Washington County on May 11 (Don Weber +). A very early Wood Thrush in Garrett County was at Bloomington Lake on April 20 (Skipper).

*Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes.* Flocks of Water Pipits that were reported were 200 in southern Frederick County on March 24 by Wilson and 200 near Madonna during the second week of April by Kirkwood. Flocks of Cedar Waxwings peaked with 100 in St. Marys County on March 27 (Wilson) and 165 in DC on May 19 (Czaplak) showing the apparent dual migration of this species in early and late spring. The only Loggerhead Shrikes of the season were 1 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on March 9 (Kirkwood +) and 1 at Beltsville on March 25 (Sumner).

*Vireos.* Early White-eyed Vireos for their respective locations were in Patuxent River Park on April 14 (Gregoire) and Mt. Nebo on April 23 (Skipper). An exceptionally early Yellow-throated Vireo was on Green Ridge on April 13 (Simons), 5 were at Golts on April 23 (Gruber, Parks), and 1 at Mt. Nebo on April 24 (Thayer) was also early for Garrett. Migrant Warbling Vireos in unusual places were at Denton on April 23 (Knotts) and Sandy Point on May 26 (Klockner). A Philadelphia Vireo, a rare spring migrant in Maryland, was banded at Mt. Nebo on May 20.

*Warblers.* The mild early season weather produced many warbler sightings that were slightly ahead of schedule. Here are the most significant locally. A Nashville Warbler was banded at Mt. Nebo on April 23 and 1 was seen at Matapeake on April 27 (Hammer). A Northern Parula was singing in Carroll County at Marriottsville on April 14 (Ringler), and a Yellow Warbler was at North Branch on the 20th (Simons). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Chestertown on April 22 (Gruber), and a Cape May Warbler at Tanyard on April 24 (Engle). Garrett County contributed a Black-throated Blue Warbler banded at Mt. Nebo on April 24, but Connie Skipper had seen 1 at Bray Hill three days earlier with 2 Black-throated Green Warblers. Another Black-throated Green was at Matapeake on April 27 (Hammer). The first Yellow-throated Warbler was at Swann Park in Charles County on March 30 (Steve Cardano); more normal were 3 at Conowingo (Schutsky) and 1 at Seneca (Warfield) on April 5. A Pine Warbler was in Susquehanna State Park on March 16 (Kirkwood) for an early Harford County record. Early Prairie Warblers were in Howard County on April 18 (Therres), and in Montgomery County (Bonham) and Anne Arundel County (Hammer) both on the 19th. March Palm Warblers were 1 at Seneca on the 24th (M. O'Brien), in Anne Arundel County on the 29th (Mumford), in Talbot County on the 30th (Coble) and in DC on the 31st (Czaplak); 1 was at

Marriottsville in Carroll County on April 6 (Ringler). The first Black-and-white Warblers were at Nassawango Creek on April 12 (Klockner), in Anne Arundel County on the 13th (Hammer), and in Carroll County on the 14th (Ringler). An American Redstart was banded at Mt. Nebo on April 22. Klockner found an early Ovenbird at Nassawango Creek on April 12 and others were noted on the 16th at Patuxent River Park (Gregoire) and Greensboro (Hewitt). Czaplak found a Northern Waterthrush in DC on April 19, the same day 1 was banded at Adventure. Early Louisiana Waterthrushes were at Patuxent River Park on March 24 (Gregoire), in Charles County on March 27 (George Wilmot) and at Oldtown on April 5 (Simons). April 25 was the arrival date for Kentucky Warblers at Patuxent River Park (Gregoire) and in Charles County (Nistico).

A rarity for Garrett County was a Blue-winged Warbler banded on May 29 at Mt. Nebo, where an early Golden-winged Warbler was seen on April 26 (Skipper). Another Golden-wing was in southern Howard County on April 28 (Solem, Farrell). The only sighting of the "Brewster's" hybrid was at Pennyfield on April 28 (M. O'Brien), though another was banded on May 2 at Mt. Nebo. O'Brien also reported the only Orange-crowned Warbler of the season at Rockville on April 25. Multiple sightings of Palm Warblers were 3 at Hammond Branch in Howard County on April 6 (Solem), 6 in Baltimore County at Woodstock on April 14 (Ringler), and 2 at Piney Run on May 4 (Hammers). O'Brien counted a high of 18 Bay-breasted Warblers at Rockville on May 10, a very large number for spring migration. High counts of Blackpoll Warblers were 30 at Rockville on May 13 (M. O'Brien), 7 in St. Marys County on May 15 (Wilson) and 45 in DC on May 19 (Czaplak). Cerulean Warblers are rare on the Eastern Shore, but 1 singing male was near Blackwater Refuge on May 4 (Armistead +) and an immature male was singing in Ocean City on May 25 (Ringler). An extraordinary rarity for the spring was a Connecticut Warbler banded at St. Timothy's in Baltimore County on May 20 (Barbara Ross). Among the Mourning Warblers banded this spring were single birds at Mt. Nebo on May 13 and 28, and 5 at St. Timothy's, May 14-28. Other sightings of Mournings were at Hughes Hollow on May 20 (Bonham), Sandy Point on May 26 (Klockner), in DC on May 27 (Czaplak), and at Annapolis on May 30 (Mumford).

Late migrant Magnolia Warblers were 1 on Barren Island on May 25 (Armistead) and 1 banded on June 1 at Adventure. A Cape May Warbler was in Greenbelt on May 30 (Nancy Csider), and Paul O'Brien saw 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers in Rockville on May 19. The last Blackburnian Warblers were on the Isle of Wight near Ocean City on May 25 (Ringler) and in DC on May 27 (Czaplak). A Bay-breasted Warbler was in Ocean City on May 25, and 20 American Redstarts there the next day (Ringler). A very late migrant Redstart was at Tanyard on June 3 (Engle). Of the 65 Northern Waterthrushes banded at Adventure for the season, the last was on May 31.

*Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings.* A migrant Summer Tanager was seen in DC on May 19 (Czaplak) and a male was at Daniels in Howard County on May 27 (Chestem), while 6 were at Merkle WMA on May 20 (M. O'Brien). Nistico found early Scarlet Tanagers in both Charles and Prince Georges counties on April 20 and 1 was at Denton on the same day (R. Fletcher). A very early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Remington Farms on April 23 (Gruber, Parks) and a male was at Hoyes Run in Garrett County on April 28 (Skipper). The first Blue Grosbeak was in Talbot County on April 24 (Coble); others were found on April 27 at Piscataway (Nistico) and in St. Marys County (Runkles) and on the 28th at Denton (R. Fletcher). An early Indigo Bunting was banded at Adventure on April 24, another was seen at Patuxent River Park on the 26th (Gregoire), and on the 27th birds were in DC (Czaplak) and at Pinto (Simons, Ringler).

*Sparrows.* The last American Tree Sparrows were 1 at Remington Farms on March 28 (Gruber) and 2 at Pinto Marsh on April 21 (Simons). March Chipping Sparrows were 1 at Denton on the 17th (Westre), 1 at Bel Air in Allegany County on the 19th (Simons), 1 at Piscataway on the 24th (Nistico), and 2 at Bray Hill in Garrett County on the 29th (Skipper). A Clay-colored Sparrow in northern Baltimore County, March 6-8 (Bob Dixon, Kaestner), will be reported separately. A probable late migrant Vesper Sparrow was at Brandon Shores on May 4 (Ringler, Jeff Bickart), and Gregoire found this species with young in Prince Georges County on May 12, evidence of very early nesting. Savannah Sparrows in Montgomery County on March 10 (M. O'Brien) and Calvert County on March 15 (Kraus) may have been wintering birds. An exceptionally early Grasshopper Sparrow was at Pinto Marsh on April 7 (Simons). The high count of Henslow's Sparrows at Elliott was 11 on May 11 (Perry +). Hammer found 3 Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Brandon Shores on April 28 and another migrant there on May 19. Also there were 4 Seaside Sparrows on May 5 (Ringler, Hammer) and 1 at Masonville on May 12 (Ringler), all migrants. A late Fox Sparrow was in DC on April 6 (Czaplak). An early Lincoln's Sparrow was banded at Adventure on April 25. Gruber counted 52 Swamp Sparrows at Remington Farms on March 31, and Czaplak estimated 190 White-throated Sparrows in DC on April 27 during the peak of that species migration through the state. Late White-crowned Sparrows were banded at Mt. Nebo on May 9 and seen near Williamsport on May 11 (Mallonee). A late Dark-eyed Junco was at Denton on May 9 (Knotts).

*Longspur, Icterines, Siskins.* A rarity in DC was a male Lapland Longspur at Hains Point on March 23 (Czaplak), also a very late sighting for the region. Flocks of Bobolinks reported were 175 at Greensboro on May 4 (Fletchers), 50 near Fulton in Howard County on May 11 (Ringler), and 35 in St. Marys County on May 15 (Wilson). A late migrant Bobolink was near Bellevue on June 1 (Armistead). Dyke estimated 250 Red-winged Blackbirds, all females, migrating over Deal Island WMA on April 14. The only Rusty Blackbirds of note were 80 at Bray Hill on March 4 (Skipper) and 10 in DC on March 30 (Czaplak). A male Boat-tailed Grackle near Bellevue on April 13 (Armistead) was a rare sight that far north on the bay shore. In a season when there were few Pine Siskins to brag about, Connie Skipper had 12 at her Bray Hill feeder on April 4.

3501 Melody Lane, Baltimore, MD 21207

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING June 8, 1985

The MOS annual membership meeting was held at Salisbury, Maryland on June 8, 1985. President Martha Chestem called the session to order at 8:15 p.m. A quorum was on hand. A motion was introduced by Mrs. Farrell, seconded and passed, approving Minutes of the last meeting as submitted.

*Treasurer*—Richard Cleveland. The Society is solvent, with financial assets of approximately \$123,000, an increase of \$8700 in the past year. A motion was presented by Mr. Cheevers, seconded and passed, accepting the Treasurer's report.

Appreciation was expressed to Mary Love, retiring Executive Secretary. Richard Danca of the Montgomery Chapter has been selected for the position.

Reports submitted by committee chairmen are published in this issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. Others are briefly synopsized here:

**Bylaws Committee**—Lee Meinersmann. The following amendment to Article IV, Section 2 was presented by the committee, seconded and approved:

The officers shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual meeting, by ballot or voice vote, as the meeting determines. The officers shall assume their duties on September 1, and shall hold office for one year, through August 31, or until successors are chosen, or unless they are removed from office as provided in Section 3.

This change will become effective in 1986.

**Publications**—Chandler Robbins. A special word of thanks was extended to Cameron Lewis, retiring Editor of the Yellowthroat, and a warm welcome to Mark Hoffman, his successor. Chapter presidents and committee chairmen were urged to submit annual reports as soon as possible, for inclusion in the June 1985 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

**Nominating Committee**—John Malcolm. Nominated by the committee to serve as officers of the Society for the forthcoming year: President, Anthony W. White; Vice President, Richard J. Dolesh; Treasurer, Emily D. Joyce; Secretary, Helen Ford. The name of John Gregoire was also submitted from the floor for the office of Vice President. A motion was made by Mr. Malcolm and passed, closing nominations. By a show of hands, the slate presented by the committee was declared elected. They will take office immediately.

Outgoing President Martha Chestem thanked all who helped to make her two terms of office pleasant and successful. She plans to devote future efforts to promoting the Maryland conservation stamp. New President Anthony White cited some major accomplishments of her tenure: addition of the new Jug Bay Chapter, revitalization of the convention and sanctuary programs, establishment of the Atlas project, passage of the State conservation stamp, and continued solvency of the Society. Miss Chestem was honored by a rising vote of thanks.

At 9:15 p.m., Mr. Robbins' motion to adjourn was received, seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
HELEN M. FORD  
Secretary

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ATLAS COMMITTEE

The field work went very well in 1984, but we are lagging in getting it on the computer. Extrapolating from preliminary results it looks like we will have about 60,000 records after two years of atlassing. We are well on the way to the 90,000 we set as a goal at the beginning of the project. Every person who has participated deserves a pat on the back.

From here on it gets harder. Though many blocks are finished, most still require work. Some need only a few species to reach the minimum goal. Some have enough

species, but need a higher percentage of probables and confirms. The problem is that it takes just as much time to find the last ten or twenty birds as is does to find the first fifty or sixty. So we need the continued enthusiasm and participation of everyone who has helped so far. We also need an increased willingness to help out in new blocks. If your original block is finished, or if you have surveyed all the habitats and are not adding new species, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE get in touch with your local coordinator and offer to help in other blocks.

By the end of this year there will be few blocks without some coverage. That means a chance to atlas through your local area in search of specific, unusual, and hard-to-find birds like warblers, owls, hawks, and sparrows. Days pursuing these birds can attract even birders who have not yet been bitten by the atlas bug. There is still time to introduce a friend to the joys of our favorite summertime sport. Our goal in many areas is to collect enough data so we can spend the last year of the Atlas Project chasing only the rarest and most interesting birds.

We can also use your help if you are willing to travel beyond the borders of your county to atlas. There will be at least two blockbusting parties this year, as well as a big push at the MOS convention in Salisbury. Additionally, many counties with good coverage and a wealth of atlassers are bordered by counties with small chapters and huge areas.

Let's be neighborly. Every county has been pulling its weight, but the load is heavier in some areas than others. If you are interested in blockbusting, alone or as part of a party, get in touch with your local coordinator. If you would like to join us on one of the major forays this year, drop me a line or give me a call. Everyone is welcome.

And thank you all. What was once just a plan and a dream is taking shape as a reality, and you are doing it.

*Eirik A. T. Blom, State Coordinator*

### ATLAS FINANCE COMMITTEE

The financial situation of the MAP is more stable now than at any time since the beginning of the project. This is because the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has assumed the obligation for the Coordinator's salary. This has been our largest single budget item and the most worrisome because we couldn't keep current. Through cash contributions, the largest amount being from the MOS, we have paid all bills to date including the Coordinator's back salary.

This move by the DNR has removed a great load from the mind of the Finance Committee and we thank them for it. We are also indebted to our Coordinator who had enough faith in the eventual outcome to stick with us during periods of no back pay and little promise.

*John Cullom, Chairman, Finance Committee*

### AUDITING COMMITTEE

I have examined the financial records of the state treasurer of the Maryland Ornithological Society as of April 30, 1985. In my opinion the records are in good order and accurately reflect the financial status of the society.

*Rodney B. Jones, Chairman*

## BLUEBIRD COMMITTEE

The Bluebird Committee operates in close cooperation with the North American Bluebird Society. The primary purpose of the Committee is to obtain public participation in its effort to restore the Eastern Bluebird population of Maryland to some semblance of what it was in earlier times. This is being accomplished by placing large numbers of starling-proof bluebird nesting boxes in suitable locations and protecting the nesting bluebirds as far as possible against their native and alien enemies.

Reports for the 1984 nesting season were obtained from 32 collaborators who maintained 762 bluebird nesting boxes in Maryland. An estimated 1,180 young bluebirds were fledged from these boxes during the year. Most collaborators reported fewer bluebirds fledged than in 1983. This was no doubt due in considerable part to the very backward spring weather, resulting in very late nesting starts and fewer than usual multiple broods.

By far the most frequent cause of nesting failure reported was interference by House Sparrows. Other causes reported in descending order of frequency were interference by House Wrens, snakes, unfavorable weather, human vandals, cats, raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, opossums, and Tree Swallows.

As of this writing (May 24, 1985), this year promises to be the best bluebird year since the Committee was organized in 1969. Excellent winter survival, favorable spring weather, and increased interest in bluebird conservation are believed to be largely responsible for the encouraging 1985 outlook.

*Larry Zeleny, Chairman*

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The 1985 session of the Maryland General Assembly was quite successful; several very good measures were passed, and two particularly bad bills were defeated, at least temporarily. The latter first: After intensive study, a joint (Senate and House) committee recommended last fall against authorization of the state's right to take land for a coal slurry pipeline. In spite of this, a slurry bill was introduced again this year, but it was withdrawn early in the session for lack of support. A much greater danger was presented by a bill that would have relaxed current restrictions on strip mining of steep slopes; this bill passed both houses of the Assembly but was finally vetoed by Governor Hughes on May 28, the last possible day. He should be commended for this decision.

On the positive side, a new wildlands area was designated in Rocky Gap State Park, after two years of negotiations to resolve the conflict between the wildlands and the proposed convention center-incompatible uses of the land. A Chesapeake Bay Trust was established that will enable individuals, groups of citizens, or corporations to contribute to programs to help the Bay, both with money and with volunteer activities. A ban on the use of phosphate in detergents will cut down on a major contributor to eutrophication of the Bay. Further funding was provided for additional personnel and implementation of several of the Chesapeake Bay initiatives that were passed last year. Through lobbying, letter writing, and testimony at hearings, the MOS supported all of this legislation.

It would be appropriate at this time for MOS members to call their state legislators to learn how they voted on these issues and express approval or disappointment as appropriate. It is very important for legislators to be aware that environmental concerns are important to their constituents.

Completion of the National Freeway by a six-lane interstate highway through the Green Ridge State Forest has concerned MOS members for many years. After six years of lobbying, litigation, and protest from citizens all over the state, the Department of Transportation, with Governor Hughes' concurrence, has at last agreed to build the new highway along the old Route 40. Anyone who has recently driven out to western Maryland and seen the dreadful scar in Sideling Hill will be grateful that the Green Ridge Forest will be spared similar desecration. However, a decision has not yet been made on the route west of the forest, into Cumberland. A new alignment, cutting south through forest and farmland before turning west, is still being considered. Letters from MOS as a group and from individual members everywhere in the state, urging that the highway be completed along the existing Route 40 alignment, should be sent to Secretary of Transportation, William Hellman.

On the national scene, reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act, which is currently being considered by the Congress, is a matter of great concern to residents of any coastal state, of course including Maryland. CZMA is the federal legislation through which coastal states are assisted to develop programs to protect such coastal features as barrier islands and wetlands. Through what is termed the "consistency provision," it also requires that federal activities not conflict with state programs or policies. A recent Supreme Court decision has exempted offshore oil and gas leasing from this provision, and the oil and gas industries are bringing heavy pressure to bear to weaken it still further. Again, letters are needed to your senators and US representative, urging reauthorization of CZMA in the strongest possible form.

One final point: an expression of appreciation to everyone who signed or circulated the sea turtle petitions this spring. Thanks to you, more than 300 signatures were sent to the international commission that regulates trade in sea turtle products.

*Anneke Davis, Chairperson*

## CONVENTION COMMITTEE

The 1985 M.O.S. Convention was held at Salisbury State College on June 7-9; the 302 people who attended enjoyed a variety of lectures, bird trips and comraderie. Whether it was visiting the Wildfowl Carving Museum, attending the discussions on the ecology of Chesapeake Bay, or enjoying the featured speaker — Len Soucy of the Raptor Trust in New Jersey, convention-goers took advantage of enjoyable learning opportunities.

As always there were many field trips run throughout the convention. In addition to the old stand-bys to Pocomoke Swamp and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, new trips were run to see breeding plovers at the north end of Assateague Island and by boat to Watts and Fox Islands in Chesapeake Bay. The use of college facilities necessitated scheduling this year's convention later in the Spring than previous Eastern Shore conventions. This raised some concern as to the number and

variety of birds that would be seen. Although the number of species was less than at previous Eastern Shore conventions, the total of 173 species included life birds for many attendees and good sightings of unusual birds for nearly everyone. Highlights among the sightings were breeding Wilson's Plovers and a Willow Flycatcher at Assateague, Brown Pelicans and many late shorebirds at Chincoteague, Black Rails at Elliott Island and immature Peregrine Falcons at Fox Island.

The Convention raised over a thousand dollars for the Maryland/D.C. Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and other M.O.S. projects. The combined raffle and auction raised \$954.52 for the Atlas, and the donations included with the convention registration applications raised \$354 for the general operating fund.

The Convention Committee would like to thank Salisbury State College, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Wildfowl Carving Museum for their assistance in the 1985 convention. I, personally, would like to thank Gail and Charles Vaughn, Helen Ford and all the Convention field trip leaders for their support. Without their help there would not have been any convention.

The 1985 Convention continued the tradition of enjoyable, successful M.O.S. Conventions. The committee's last act, getting approval for the 1986 Convention at Frostburg State College, may begin a new tradition of alternating the convention sites between eastern and western Maryland.

*Tony White, Chairman*

### EAGLE COMMITTEE

During the past year the DELMARVA area enjoyed the best production rate of young observed since the Chesapeake population was decimated. Production in 1984 achieved a positive growth rate; we hope that the initial good indications for 1985 are accurate and portend the continuance of that trend. As of May 20, over 80 young were banded and approximately 20 three-chick nests were identified!! (The average for three young is seven nests/season). Older Eagles did not have a good year in our area. Within the State of Maryland we had four, perhaps six, incidents of eagles shot or found dead.

The habitat management brochure has been published by the National Wildlife Federation and has been disseminated to owners of eagle nest territories.

The purpose of this committee is to establish a reward program, insure that it is well publicized, and assist Federal and State agencies in eagle related projects. In the case of incidents, we depend on rapid notification to allow us to publish reward (ours is but a small part of the total possible stipend) information in the area of the incident. Such action in other states has led to arrest and prosecution.

Unfortunately, State of Maryland Endangered Species personnel and local Fish & Wildlife enforcement officers have refused to cooperate with either information or notification. State personnel have assisted us by reminding the Federal authorities of our program. Perhaps this lack of information is a result of unfortunate publicity relating to Fish & Wildlife's "Sting" fiasco, as we enjoyed outstanding cooperation in the past. Concomitantly, the State of Maryland has launched its own HOTLINE/Reward type program designed to encourage citizens to "catch a poacher." As with many such endeavors, this effort is largely game oriented and

does not satisfy eagle protection requirements. Unfortunately, the state's "not invented here" approach to helping our program has a totally negative effect on effective reward program management.

Owing to the lack of cooperation by government authorities, I believe the MOS Reward Program has become ineffectual. I recommend that the Reward Program be cancelled and the reward budget returned to the general fund. The Committee remains a useful organization for the coordination of eagle related projects and should remain a standing committee.

*John A. Gregoire, Chairman*

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

From the 1984-85 MOS Speakers List which was distributed to all Chapters at the last annual meeting at least 43 programs were drawn by the Chapters. Several Chapters used the Speakers List for nearly their entire program.

All Chapters were notified in June of plans for the Listers' Trip. The ninth annual Delmarva Listers' Trip was held October 6-8, 1984, with over 30 members from across the state compiling a list of 150 species during the three days in the field. The Committee thanks Bob Ringler for an excellent job in once again planning and leading this event and for his report of it published in *Maryland Yellowthroat*, Vol. 5, No. 1, January-February 1985.

Committee representatives attended and examined projects at science fairs in Anne Arundel County and Baltimore, but found no ornithological projects for which MOS Junior Achievement Awards could be made.

In April letters were sent out to all 1984-85 speakers and to all Chapter Presidents for updating the MOS Speakers List. Copies of the newly updated list containing the names of 32 volunteers offering about 100 programs will be distributed to all Chapters.

*James W. Cheevers, Chairman*

### INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

As of April 30, 1985, the investments of the Maryland Ornithological Society are summarized as follows:

Cash or Equivalents (Money market funds, etc.)	\$80,000
Bonds	32,000
Equity (Mutual Funds)	10,000
Total	\$122,000

The preponderance of high-yielding, fixed-income investments reflects the overriding need for current income. The only equity investment is the T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund.

The Growth Stock Fund has had an inferior long-term record when compared to the universe of mutual funds, as well as to the Standard & Poor 500-stock Market Index. After consultation with the Committee members, it was decided to liquidate

the Growth Stock Fund and invest the proceeds in Source Capital, a closed-end fund listed on the New York Stock Exchange. This fund has ranked among the top performers of the 1974-84 decade with an average annual total return of 38%. It has also had an excellent showing in both up and down markets, which gives it an important measure of stability. While past performance is no guarantee of future success, it is hoped that it is a good indication of the likely trend.

In terms of longer-term investment policy, consideration should be given to increasing the percentage of stock investments, when and if the Society's financial needs would allow less dependence on high current income. Greater stock ownership would, over the long term, provide the opportunity to offset the effects of inflation and build capital.

*Charles M. Buchanan, Chairman*

### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The books at Carey Run and Irish Grove have been dusted, rearranged and recorded. Several new volumes have been added to each collection: at Carey Run "Vulture Biology and Management," a compilation of papers given at an international symposium on vultures; at Irish Grove "Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals of Maryland", a compilation of papers given at a symposium at Towson State University on that subject. Reviews of both books are being submitted to *Maryland Birdlife*. There are 3 other places where the MOS and its Chapters have book collections: Hood College, Cylburn, and tum Suden Sanctuary. We will get these lists up to date and compile all for the records.

When this committee was created it was charged with exploring the feasibility of organizing an MOS Library. With the resources available at the time, the committee did not see that it was possible. In the 10 years that have passed it still does not seem a possibility or even a desirability. Information retrieval is so efficient through the established public and university library systems that these would be the first places any of us would turn to for our specialized problems in ornithology research. Therefore, we must consider the purpose of our book collections. At our sanctuary houses the books can be for our enjoyment and to answer questions on identification while we are there. They may also be expected to enlighten us about the area of Maryland in which the sanctuaries are located. To these ends we'll maintain the collections and add to them as the budget allows. We'll welcome any suggestions.

We still have the problem of storing excess copies of *Maryland Birdlife* and the exchange journals. Storing all these at Cylburn is an unmanageable problem. We have no system for retrieving the materials even if we are called on to do so. Only twice has anyone come to us to use one of these journals from our shelves. I recommend now, as I did early in the existence of this committee, that we pass these on to Towson State University Library, if they are still interested in accepting them. Excess *Birdlifes* deserve more space for organization and security than they get at Cylburn, or at any of the Sanctuary houses. I recommend that we rent storage space in a mini-storage unit convenient to the *Birdlife* mailing committee and our Publications Committee.

Please do not use the sanctuary houses as a depository of old magazines. The mice and silverfish show more interest in them than our sanctuary visitors do. *Audubon Magazines* since 1980 may be welcome, but check first to see whether you will be duplicating what is there before you leave any.

Many thanks to Mr. Ed Unger for his letter in response to our review of "The Case of the Hook-billed Kites." It is always gratifying to hear from the readers of the books and the reviews.

My recommendations for all of you: Visit your sanctuaries. After a full day of birding sit down and relax with a book or two from the shelves. Then make some recommendations of your own for the Library Committee.

*Joy Wheeler, Chairman*

### LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The following list of long range goals was distilled from a preliminary list submitted to the Board of Directors at their meeting on March 23, 1985. This is the second major set of planning goals accepted by the Society. A few are almost identical to those adopted in 1978 (See *Maryland Birdlife* 34(2):S8-S9), at least one has been reworded, and a number are new. They can be changed, amended, or deleted at any time by the Board of Directors. The list is flexible and will be re-examined periodically. The committee thanks those individuals and chapters who provided comments and suggestions.

The following were agreed upon as future objectives for the Maryland Ornithological Society. We should

1. Conserve sizable wildlife habitats in each of the various and different physiographic and biotic regions of Maryland.
2. Support the protection of endangered wildlife species and their habitats within Maryland.
3. Aid and protect nonendangered bird species which may benefit from work on their behalf.
4. Further knowledge of Maryland ornithology by supporting research on Maryland's birds and by disseminating the results of this research.
5. Sustain and strengthen the Society's sanctuary program.
6. Publicize and promote the Maryland Ornithological Society in order to establish it as the preeminent birding voice in the state.
7. Complete the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas Project and publish the results.
8. Maintain and strengthen the Society's scholarship program.
9. Take clear positions on bird-related conservation/ecology issues on which the Society has reached a strong consensus.
10. Increase the emphasis and scope of our activities involving children.
11. Publish a revised Field List of the Birds of Maryland every ten years and a revised state checklist based on the most recent AOU Check-list.
12. Develop a mechanism by which the Society solicits, receives, considers, and allocates sizable donations made through wills, trusts, and other gifts.

*Joanne K. Solem, Chairman*

### PINTO SWAMP FUNDING COMMITTEE

The purpose of this Ad Hoc Committee was to render an opinion as to whether the MOS could afford Pinto Swamp. To arrive at a conclusion, the committee did three things: (1) We consulted with money raising experts, Steve Hamblin and Wayne Klockner of the Nature Conservancy. (2) We toured the site with Hamblin, Klockner and Teresa Simons. (3) We had the property appraised again by an expert in this type of property. We reached the following conclusions:

The MOS could probably afford the property and raise the funds through a well organized fund drive. It would take a lot of planning and hard work, but in the opinion of the experts, we could do it. Hamblin, based on his experience, believes the financial resources are available in the MOS. The problem is that the President would have to form a very special committee with skills in the art of raising money and one able to identify those people in the MOS who are potential sources of large amounts of money. However, again in the opinion of the experts, it could be done.

The other question is, should it be done? Essential to the success of a fund drive is a project that will interest and stimulate the potential donors. The property in question falls into three parcels: 25 acres of marsh, 25 acres of buffer field, and over 50 acres of cultivated fields. The marsh is the interesting area for it provides the unique birding habitat and was the site of the Sora nest. The fields are only of interest as a buffer for the marsh. The total property has a \$1000/acre value placed on it. For the MOS, a \$100,000 fund drive would be a formidable effort. The minimum acceptable parcel would include the 25-acre marsh plus the 25-acre buffer and cost \$50,000 and would also be a monumental fund raising effort. Unfortunately, the buffer includes about a mile of road frontage containing prime building sites. If we opted for the 25-acre core which we could easily afford, we could look forward to being partially surrounded by houses in the future.

Therefore, because of the limited acreage of interesting habitat and the high value of the surrounding land and the fact that cat-tail marshes, though rare in western Maryland, are common in other parts of Maryland, the committee does not think this property satisfies the criterion for an intensive fund raising effort. We recommend that a fund raising effort not be mounted for this property.

*John Cullom, Chairman,  
Mary Corderman, Hank Kaestner, Dave Pardoe, Mary Twigg*

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

We have not been successful in the past in finding applicants for our research grants. This year we are making a tremendous effort to get the word out, since we believe that the research program is an important part of the MOS long-term goals and can contribute significantly to our educational program. We are trying to reach every possible candidate.

The most likely source of information about budding researchers in ornithology is our own membership. Therefore we urge you to make time for an announcement at your first meeting in the Fall. A suggested announcement follows, but your own words may be more appropriate. Please urge your members to mention the grant program to anyone they know who might be interested in doing a bit of research on Maryland birds.

The MOS Research Committee will award two grants-in-aid of research next year. The awards are for a maximum of \$500. In addition, it may be possible to arrange for housing at nominal charge at one of our sanctuaries. Either ornithological research anywhere in the state or ecological research at one of our sanctuaries is acceptable. The deadline for receipt of proposals is January 15, 1986. For further information, contact Margaret H. Jones, Chairman, Research Committee, Route 1, Box 325, Goffs MD 21637, 648-5235.

*Margaret H. Jones, Chairman*

## SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

It is always good to review the accomplishments of the past to list tasks and goals completed, to evaluate the effectiveness of the planning, and to use these as a basis for future endeavors. Following are the tasks completed by the Committee to date: Establishment of a schedule for regular meetings for the Eastern, Central, and Western parts of the State. Establishment of a process for evaluating the condition of our sanctuaries and the development of a plan for short and long range repair and use strategies. Establishment of a long term resident at tum Suden. Regular scheduling of workdays at Carey Run (last Saturday in April) and Irish Grove (first Saturday in November). A regular schedule for the closing and opening of Carey Run and Irish Grove over the winter. A registration process in place for Carey Run. A survey in progress of flora and fauna of Mill Creek; this will serve as a model for similar efforts at our other sanctuaries. The development of Land Aquisition Policy, Regulations for collecting flora and fauna at our Sanctuaries, Regulations for conducting research, and Regulations for usage of each sanctuary. Establishment of fees for overnight use. Continuation of the Private Wildlife Sanctuary program. Revision of *A Guide To The Sanctuaries of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.*

It has been a privilege to have served MOS in the capacity as Chairman of the Sanctuary Committee. It is a pleasure for me to introduce to you the new Sanctuary Committee Chairman, Dottie Mumford.

*Benjamin F. Poscover, Chairman*

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Once again the Scholarship Committee has chosen winners for the four scholarships awarded annually for attendance at National Audubon Ecology Workshops.

Ms. Jane Geuder, Biology Teacher at Centennial High School, is winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in the Far West.

Ms. Kristine Craddock, Elementary School Teacher at Shady Side Elementary School, also is a winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in the Far West.

Ms. Jeannine Holdiman, Science Specialist at the Maryland Science Center, winner of the Orville W. Crowder Memorial Scholarship, will be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine.

Ms. Marion Bowers, Science Teacher at Kenwood Senior High School, winner of the Amateur Gardeners' Club of Baltimore Scholarship, will also be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine.

From a very fine group of five candidates the Scholarship Committee chose the following winners of our two ornithology scholarships.

Ms. Carol McCollough, Canada Goose Observer with the Maryland Forest, Park, and Wildlife Service, is winner of the Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship. She will attend the Field Ornithology Workshop at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

Mr. Michael Callahan, college student majoring in Environmental Education and Park Management is winner of the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship. He also will attend the Field Ornithology Workshop at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

The Scholarship Committee wishes to thank all of our members who have shown an active interest in our scholarship program. We are dependent on you for locating fine candidates for our scholarships, for continuing financial support, and for continuing interest in training young people who will continue the education of present and future generations.

*Mildred E. Gebhard, Chairman*

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
May 1, 1984—April 30, 1985**

**OPERATING FUND**

Fund Balance, May 1, 1984	\$ 34,551.17
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Dues <sup>1</sup>	9,931.00
Transfer from Sanctuary Endowment Fund,	
Life Members	378.00
Convention Income <sup>2</sup>	16,044.00
Interest Income - Pooled Funds	1,437.57
- Investments	1,425.00
Publications Sales	21.80
Balt. Chpt. Contribution for Use of Bulk	
Mail Permit	20.00
Sales of Decals	50.00
Unallocated Donations	317.01
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>29,624.38</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
MARYLAND BIRDLIFE - Printing	2,503.78
- Postage	126.54
MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT - Printing	1,729.00
- Postage	516.99
Publications Supplies and Misc.	93.46
Executive Secretary - Stipend	2,400.00
Postage	450.95
Bulk Mail Permits	80.00
Bulk Mailing - Convention Flyers	129.00
Membership List Maintenance	330.00
Printing and Duplication	235.04
Office Supplies & Miscellaneous	581.94
Atlas Committee	1,000.00
Eagle Committee Expenses	52.40
Research Committee	750.00
Convention Payments <sup>2</sup>	20,577.20

Affiliations and Memberships	125.00	
Contingencies	45.04	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>31,726.34</b>
Excess of moneys over account records		32,449.21
Fund Balance, April 30, 1985		216.91
		<b>32,666.12</b>

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Fund Balance, May 1, 1984	24,581.61	
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Contributions - General	2,355.39	
- Amateur Gardener's Club	400.00	
- World Nature Club	625.00	
Interest income - Investments	585.00	
- Pooled Funds	1,947.03	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>5,912.42</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Helen Miller Scholarships (two)	1,250.00	
Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship	385.00	
Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship	385.00	
Orville Crowder Scholarship	625.00	
Amateur Gardener's Club Scholarship	625.00	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>3,270.00</b>
Fund Balance, April 30, 1985		27,224.03

**SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND**

Fund Balance, May 1, 1984	32,159.46	
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Life Memberships	50.00	
Investment Interest and Dividends	1,385.47	
Interest on Pooled Funds	810.71	
Capital Gain Dividend (Reinvested)	445.11	
		<b>2,691.29</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Transfer to Operating Fund for Life Members	378.00	
Transfer to Sanctuary Fund	1,818.18	
Capital Gain Reinvestment (TRP Growth Stock Fund)	445.11	2,641.29
<b>Fund Balance, April 30, 1985</b>		<b>32,209.46</b>

**SANCTUARY FUND<sup>3</sup>**

Fund Balance, May 1, 1984	28,776.81	
Contributions	3,111.71	
Transfer from Sanctuary Endowment Fund	1,818.18	
Interest Income - Pooled Funds	3,188.20	
Sale of Sanctuary Signs	210.00	
Use of Sanctuaries <sup>4</sup>	426.00	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>8,754.09</b>

**Expenditures:**

General Contingency	532.24
New Sanctuary Guides	564.00
General Liability Insurance	767.00
Mill Creek - General Maintenance	184.99
Tum Suden - General Maintenance	488.21
- Fire Insurance	226.00
- Incidentals	922.00
Carey Run <sup>5</sup> - General Maintenance	410.14
Irish Grove - General Maintenance	965.00
- Utilities	469.46
- Fuel	600.25
- Taxes	1,024.10
- Fire Insurance	347.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>7,500.39</b>
<b>Fund Balance, April 30, 1985</b>	<b>30,030.51</b>

**ATLAS PROGRAM**

<b>Fund Balance, May 1, 1984</b>	<b>173.54</b>
Transfer from Operating Fund	1,000.00
Donations, fund raisings, etc.	10,713.24
	11,713.24
Payments to coordinator, supplies, travel, phone, etc.	10,414.51
<b>Fund Balance, April 30, 1985</b>	<b>1,472.27</b>

**SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS**

	5/1/84	4/30/85
Operating Fund	\$ 23,249.17	\$ 26,720.12
Convention - Advance Payments	11,302.00	5,946.00
Scholarship Fund	24,581.61	27,224.03
Sanctuary Fund	28,776.81	30,030.51
Sanctuary Endowment Fund	32,159.46	32,209.46
Atlas Fund	173.54	1,472.27
<b>Totals<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>120,242.59</b>	<b>123,602.39</b>

Checking Account - Suburban Bank		
Pooled Funds	1,874.95	4,541.13
Savings Account - Loyola FS&L		
Pooled Funds	231.52	255.48
Money Market Acc't - Loyola FS&L		
Pooled Funds	27,957.86	9,521.66
T. Rowe Price Prime Reserve Fund		
Pooled Funds	47,483.33	65,754.12
Southwestern Bell Co. (bond)		
Operating Fund Investment (at cost)	10,171.25	10,171.25
Dayton Power & Light (bond)		
Scholarship Fund Investment (at cost)	3,012.67	3,012.67
Virginia Electric Power (bond)		
Scholarship Fund Investment (at cost)	3,992.04	3,992.04

T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund			
Sanctuary Endowment Fund/Investment (at cost)	10,043.05	10,488.16	
Gen'l Telephone Company Southeast (bond)			
Sanctuary Endowment Fund/Investment (at cost)	5,129.92	5,129.92	
Niagara Mohawk Power (bond)			
Sanctuary Endowment Fund/Investment (at cost)	4,983.15	4,983.15	
Ohio Bell Telephone (bond)			
Sanctuary Endowment Fund/Investment (at cost)	4,987.81	4,987.81	
Unchashed checks awaiting deposit	252.00	665.00	
Petty cash acc't, Exec. Secretary	100.00	100.00	
Hagerstown P.O. - bulk mail permit account	23.04		
	120,242.59	123,602.39	

<sup>1</sup> Operating Fund on 5/1/84 includes \$23,332.71 balance reported on 4/30/84, plus \$100 in petty cash and \$11,302 convention advance payments, less \$173.54 credit to Atlas Fund which is now carried as a separate entry.

<sup>2</sup> Convention income and payments entries include advance deposits, refunds, and paid bills for rooms, meals, and registrations. 1984 Convention net income is calculated to be \$845.57.

<sup>3</sup> Sanctuary Fund balances include a restricted Anne Arundel Chapter gift of \$5,202.10.

<sup>4</sup> Income from sanctuary use fees does not include about \$800 for Carey Run which was not forwarded to MOS by local committee.

<sup>5</sup> Carey Run expenses are being handled mostly by local committee without coordination with MOS Treasurer. This is not authorized by MOS bylaws, and it precludes preparation of accurate financial reports and tax returns.

<sup>6</sup> This report reflects a net increase in assets for Fiscal Year 5/1/84-4/30/85 of \$8,715.80. This is largely due to deferral of major expenditures authorized at Irish Grove for maintenance and tide gates.

*Richard S. Cleveland, Treasurer*

## Book Reviews

### BIRD CONSERVATION

Published for the International Council For Bird Preservation. Stanley A. Temple (editor). University of Wisconsin Press. 1983. \$12.95.

Here is a publication that should be in the hands of every conservation chairman in the MOS. A comprehensive guide to projects working for the conservation of birds, it is the first in a projected series written by biologists working in the field. Reports of well publicized efforts to conserve the Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle and California Condor get the series off to a start that is bound to hold our attention. The sections of current news and reviews of conservation literature are just two more parts of a well-organized booklet that should help us focus our conservation efforts on projects directly benefiting bird populations.

*Joy Wheeler*

**A TWITCHER'S DIARY**  
**the Birdwatching Year of Richard Millington,**  
**Richard Millington. Blandford Press, Poole, Dorset, U.K. 1981. 192p. \$24.50.**

There's not one among us who wouldn't like to publish a diary just like this, though we may have trouble including these British birds. It is surprising, however, how many North American species are included as casual visitors. And though many of us could collect as good a bird list in a year and have no trouble in relating interesting facts about the sightings, there are only a few of us who could illustrate the book as well as this author has, most pictures in black and white, but a few in lovely color. A real bonus. I am sure we wouldn't title the book a "twitcher's" anything. Though British birdwatchers are comfortable with this word, its connotations of jerkiness and instability are disturbing to me with my perceptions of birdwatchers as a fairly solid, with-it group of reasonable people. The price seems excessive.

Joy Wheeler

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